



U.S. Department of Justice
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NEWS RELEASE

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WOMAN ARRESTED ON I-70 WITH 128 MARIJUANA PLANTS PLEADS GUILTY

TOPEKA, KAN. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced that **Mary Tiffany Martin**, 26, of Wilmington, N.C., pleaded guilty Oct. 4, 2004, before U.S. District Judge Julie A. Robinson.

Martin **pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute** 128 marijuana plants on March 11, 2004. In her plea, Martin admitted that she was driving a silver Ford Expedition westbound on I-70 when she was stopped by the Kansas Highway Patrol.

Martin's Expedition first caught an officer's attention when he noticed a 2004 Chrysler PT Cruiser following the Expedition too closely. The officer stopped the PT Cruiser, which was driven by Joel M. Yandle. In Yandle's car, officers found \$49,000 in cash in a black bag and a Motorola walkie-talkie radio that matched one later found in Martin's car. Yandle told officers that he was traveling with the person in the Expedition. Then officers stopped Martin's car. With the assistance of a drug-sniffing dog they identified four plastic tubs in Martin's car that contained the marijuana.

Sentencing is set for 9 a.m. Jan. 10 before Judge Robinson.

Martin faces a maximum penalty of not less than five years and not more than 40 years in prison and a \$2 million fine.

Melgren commended the work of the Kansas Highway Patrol, which investigated the case, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Greg Hough, who is prosecuting.